

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2414

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EAGR GV LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN FONMIN DENNIS'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CONAKRY

REF: (A) STATE 253377, (B) MONROVIA 7363

1. THE ISSUES CAUSING STRAIN IN US/GUINEA RELATIONS -- AMERICAN INTENTIONS REGARDING PL480, GUINEAN SECURITY PARANOIA, AND SOVIET TU95 DEPLOYMENTS -- ARE VERY SENSITIVE IN CONAKRY AND I HAVE SOME CONCERN THAT FONMIN DENNIS'S EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE US VIEWS COULD LEAD TO MISINTERPRETATION OR EVEN AGGRAVATION OF OUR PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, HE COULD DO US A REAL SERVICE IF HIS PRESENTATION COULD:

(A) CLARIFY US INTEREST IN MAINTAINING FRIENDLY COOPERATION WITH GUINEA AND US SYMPATHY FOR GUINEAN SECURITY WORRIES,
B) GUIDE GUINEANS AWAY FROM THEIR POSE OF RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION OVER PL480 "BLACKMAIL", AND
C) UNDER LINE US CONVICTION THAT TU95S ARE DEPLOYED AGAINST AMERICAN INTERESTS AND NOT TO PROTECT GUINEAN SECURITY, AND THAT US WAS SHOCKED BY SUDDEN REVERSAL OF GUINEAN COMMITMENT.

2. THUS, I WOULD HOPE DENNIS COULD BE URGED TO POINT OUT THAT US HAS PROVIDED ANNUAL PL480 FOOD SHIPMENTS FOR 15 YEARS AND
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THAT WE WISH TO CONTINUE THIS AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR

FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP, BUT THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO DO SO WHEN GUINEA, DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY, SUPPORTS UNFRIENDLY MILITARY SURVEILLANCE OF US SECURITY FORCES IN THE ATLANTIC. DENNIS MIGHT ALSO PASS THE INFORMATION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDERTAKEN A ROUND OF TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NEIGHBORING STATES CONCERNING THE SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, MOST ASSUREDLY INCLUDING GUINEA. MR. DENNIS MIGHT ALSO BE TOLD ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, BUT WITH AUTHORIZATION TO PASS ON TO SEKOU TOURE, THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO IT REGARDING THE THREAT TO GUINEAN SECURITY AND INTENDS TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF THIS REVIEW WITH GOG.

3. PASSING ON POINTS OF THIS SORT SHOULD ALSO ENHANCE LIBERIA'S ROLE AS A GOOD FRIEND OF GUINEA AND USEFUL LINK TO THE WEST.
HARROP

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